



Circular Letter 0015/2023

**To the Principals and Boards of Management of Second-Level Schools
and Special Schools, and to the Chief Executives of Education and
Training Boards**

**Amendments to Junior Cycle Irish T1 and T2 specifications and
assessment arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments 1
and 2**

(For student cohorts 2022/25 and 2023/26)

Introduction

The Department of Education wishes to inform the management authorities of second-level schools, and of special schools providing students with a Junior Cycle programme at level 3 on the National Framework of Qualifications, of adjustments to prescribed literary texts and arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) 1 and 2 arising from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) early enactment review of the specifications for Junior Cycle Irish (T1 and T2).

This Circular sets out adjustments to the:

- minimum volume of literary texts with which students engage over the three years of Junior Cycle for T1 and T2 as well as the genres to be explored
- the recommended list of literary texts for first year T2 and prescribed lists of literary texts for second and third year T1 and T2
- assessment arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments 1 and 2 for T1 and T2.

This Circular supersedes circulars 0035/2018, 0036/2018, 0068/2018 and 0069/2018.



The Department requests school authorities to bring this Circular to the attention of all teachers of the T1 and T2 specifications.

The Department also requests school authorities to give adequate notice of adjustments to students at the start of the relevant school year. NCCA Council has also prioritised a follow-up early enactment review of the Junior Cycle Irish specifications to commence in September 2023. This review will place focus on:

- the pedagogies used by teachers to enact the learning outcomes of the T1 and T2 specifications.
- approaches which are inclusive of all students who are learning Irish.
- practical ways to develop students' confidence and capacity to speak and interact with others in Irish across the three years of their junior cycle.

This review will focus on the student cohort commencing Junior Cycle in September 2023.

The review will also provide an opportunity to monitor and evaluate the changes detailed above, introduced in response to the first early enactment review. NCCA will conduct a full review and revision of the content of the Junior Cycle Irish text lists in the school year 2023/24. This review work will focus on the availability of texts and their suitability for a variety of school contexts. This is with a view to supporting teachers and students in selecting texts that are engaging, relevant and of a standard suitable to students' learning needs.

This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website under

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circulars/?organisation=department-of-education>

Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to

CAP_Helpdesk@education.gov.ie

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Background

In response to stakeholder requests, the NCCA commissioned a review of the early enactment of the specifications Junior Cycle Irish T1 and T2 in 2022. This review was completed by SEALBHÚ, DCU for NCCA. The full report is available at [Publications | NCCA](#)

The T1 and T2 specifications have been amended in response to this review. A reduced volume of literary texts aims to increase the time available to focus specifically on the development of students' capacity to speak and interact with others through Irish.

CBA 1 will now take place in second year in line with all other Junior Cycle subjects. This change seeks to alleviate some of the time pressures in third year identified by review participants and allow for a greater focus on the development of oral communication skills in third year.

The main changes for the student cohort 2022-2025 (current first years) T1 and T2 are as follows:

- Reduction in minimum volume of literary texts prescribed for **second and third year T1 and T2**
- Amendments to the **range of genres T1 and T2**
- CBA1 takes place in **second year T1 and T2**
- Reimagined CBA2 in revised assessment guidelines **T1 and T2**.

The main changes for the student cohort 2023-2026 (incoming first years) T1 and T2 are as follows:

- Reduction in minimum volume of literary texts recommended for **first year T2** [Microsoft Word - Liosta Téacsanna Ghaeilge na Sraithe Sóisearaí lomlán-for first docx \(curriculumonline.ie\)](#)
- Reduction in minimum volume of literary texts prescribed for- **second and third year T1 and T2**
- Amendments to the **range of genres for second and third year T1**
- Amendments to the range of genres for **first, second and third year T2**
- CBA 1 takes place in **second year**
- Reimagined CBA2 in revised assessment guidelines **T1 and T2**.

Accordingly, the [assessment guidelines for T1 and T2](#) have also been updated and amended. The detail of the reimagined CBA 2 for T1 and T2 will be published in updated versions of the assessment guidelines (*Treoirínite don Mheasúnú Rangbhunaithe agus don Tasc Measúnaithe*) before the end of April 2023. All information will be available at [Gaeilge \(curriculumonline.ie\)](#)

Note: All Classroom-Based Assessments are at a common level.



For the students entering second year in 2023/24 and thereafter (T1 and T2)

Selecting texts

The students' role in the selection of texts is crucially important. Building on the experience of exploring literary texts during first year the student, over the period of second and third year, will select prescribed texts in consultation with his/her teacher in the genres set out below.

The texts selected must **NOT** include texts explored in first year. Texts for second and third year must be selected from the appended prescribed lists of literary texts.

T1	T2
One (complete) novel	Two short films or one (complete) play
One (complete) play	One short story
Five poems / songs	Four poems / songs
Two short stories	One (complete) novel <i>Higher Level only</i>
Two short films	
Five local/oral texts	

Prescribed literary texts for T1 are presented in Appendix 1 and for T2 in Appendix 2.

Review

This Circular will be kept under review.

ENDS



Appendix 1: Prescribed materials for Junior Cycle Irish T1

List of Prescribed texts T1

(This list of prescribed texts supersedes circular 0035/2018 and 0068/2018)

Úrscéalta T1 / Novels T1			
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Gealach</i>	Seán Mac Mathúna	Leabhar Breac	2012
<i>Tromluí</i>	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Cois Life	2009
<i>Gluaiseacht</i>	Alan Tittley	An Gúm	2009
<i>An Túr Solais</i>	Ríona Nic Congáil	Coiscéim	2004 2007
<i>Doras Fuinneog Scuab</i>	Seán Mac Mathúna	Leabhar Breac	2015
<i>LabhairAmach.com</i>	Áine Uí Fhoghlú	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>Réics Carló ar Oileán Mhanann</i>	Cathal Ó Sandair	An Gúm	1984 2012
<i>Bithiúnaigh</i>	Peadar Ó Cualáin	Leabhar Breac	2012
<i>An Taistealaí</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	Cló Mhaigh Eo	1990 1998
<i>An Uaigh</i>	Laoise Ní Chléirigh	Leabhair COMHAR	2013
<i>Sárú</i>	Anna Heussaff	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017



<i>An Mianadóir</i>	Jackie Mac Donncha	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2015
<i>Comhcheilg Pháirc an Chrócaigh</i>	Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh	Coiscéim	2013

Gearrscéalta T1 / Short Stories T1				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Quick Pick</i>	Orna Ní Choileáin	<i>Sciarrann an tAm</i>	Cois Life	2014
<i>Na Bradmharcaigh</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Punk agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Mhaigh Eo	1998 2004
<i>Eoghainín na nÉan</i>	Pádraig Mac Piarais	<i>Gearrscéalta an Chéid</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2000
<i>Íosagán</i>	Pádraig Mac Piarais	<i>Ó Pheann an Phiarsaigh</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2016
<i>An Eochair</i>	Jackie Mac Donncha	<i>Bróga Johnny Thomáis</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2012
<i>Saineolaí Teicneolaí</i>	Orna Ní Choileáin	<i>Canary Wharf agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cois Life	2009
<i>Claonfhéachaint</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Goimh agus Scéalta Eile</i>	MÓINÍN	2004
<i>An Sceach</i>	Alex Hijmans	<i>Idir Dhá Thír</i>	Cois Life	2017
<i>Ag Cúinne M St. agus Wisconsin</i>	Alex Hijmans	<i>Idir Dhá Thír</i>	Cois Life	2017
<i>Goimh</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Goimh agus scéalta eile</i>	MÓINÍN	2004
<i>An Cluiche Mór</i>	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	<i>Katfish agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017



<i>An Tube</i>	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	<i>Katfish agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>M'Asal Beag Dubh</i>	Pádraic Ó Conaire	<i>Pádraic Ó Conaire: Rogha Scéalta (eag. Diarmuid de Faoite)</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2008
<i>Clann Uisnigh</i>	Séamus Ó Searcaigh	<i>Laochas</i>	An Gúm	1945 2009
<i>Bodach an Chóta Lachtna</i>	Séamus Ó Searcaigh	<i>Laochas</i>	An Gúm	1945 2009

Filíocht T1 / Poetry T1				
Teideal / Title	File / Poet	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Jeaic ar Scoil</i>	Dairena Ní Chinnéide	<i>Máthair an Fhiaigh</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2008
<i>Cad é</i>	Liam Ó Muirthile	<i>Walking Time</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1999
<i>Filleadh ar an gCathair</i>	Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh	<i>The Coast Road</i>	Gallery Books	2016
<i>An Foclóirí</i>	Colm Breathnach	<i>An Fear Marbh</i>	Coiscéim	1998
<i>Treall</i>	Caitlín Maude	<i>Caitlín Maude: Dánta, drámaíocht agus próis</i>	Coiscéim	2005 2008
<i>Athair</i>	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	<i>An Dealg Droighin</i>	Mercier Press	1981
<i>Ceist na Teangan</i>	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	<i>Pharaoh's Daughter</i>	Gallery Press	1990
<i>Ted</i>	Joe Steve Ó Neachtain	<i>De Dhroim Leice</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1990



<i>Gaiscíoch an Chamáin</i>	Micheál Ó Conghaile	<i>Comhrá Caillí</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
<i>Aongus</i>	Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc	<i>Buille Faoi Thuairim Gabha</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
<i>Rún</i>	Caitlín Maude	<i>Caitlín Maude: Dánta, drámaíocht agus próis</i>	Coiscéim	2005 2008
<i>Sámhchodladh</i>	Colm Breathnach	<i>An Fear Marbh</i>	Coiscéim	1998
<i>An Grá</i>	Colm Breathnach	<i>Croí agus Carraig</i>	Coiscéim	1995
<i>Piseoga</i>	Louis de Paor	<i>Ag Greadadh Bás sa Reilig</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2005
<i>Deireadh Cóisire</i>	Gearóid Mac Lochlainn	<i>Na Scéalaithe</i>	Coiscéim	1999
<i>Ceithre Ráithe na Bliana</i>	Pádraig Mac Suibhne	<i>Solas Uaigneach</i>	<i>An Sagart</i>	1992

Gearrscannáin T1 / Short Films T1

Teideal / Title	Stiúrthóir / Director	Scribhneoir / Writer	Léiritheoirí / Comhlacht / Producers / Production Company	Ar fáil ag / Available at
<i>Rúbaí</i> (2015)	Louise Ní Fhiannachta	Antoin Beag Ó Colla	Gemma O' Shaughnessy/ Magamedia	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/boxset/?st=Rúbaí
<i>Síle</i> (2013)	Cathal Ó Cuaig	Séamus Moran	Ciarán Ó Cofaigh/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile/?pid=5728828053001&teideal=Síle&series=Scéal 1&dlft=3618
<i>Filleann an Feall</i> (2000)	Frankie McCafferty	Don Wycherley	Ann Brehony/ Bord Scannán na hÉireann/TG4	Gearrscannáin DVD



<i>An Dóg is Faide</i> (2004)	Hugh Farley	Hugh Farley	Karen Edmonds/ Espresso Films	https://www.irishfilmboard.ie/direct-ory/view/7799/an-d%C3%ADog-is-faide
<i>An Buille</i> (2010)	Marion Ní Loinsigh	Tristan Rosenstock	Deirdre Ní Fhlatharta/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile/?pid=5721623657001&teideal=An-Buille&series=Údar&dlft=10493
<i>Fluent Dysphasia</i> (2004)	Daniel O'Hara	Daniel O'Hara	Gráinne O'Carroll/ Dough Productions	https://www.irishfilmboard.ie/direct-ory/view/7942/fluent-dysphasia
<i>An Seabhac</i> (2010)	Trevor Laffey	Paul Mercier	Deirdre Ní Fhlatharta/ Síol Scéil	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile/?pid=572162201001&teideal=An-Seabhac&series=Údar&dlft=10522
<i>Sínte</i> (2014)	Tom Sullivan	Tom Sullivan & Feidlim Cannon	Ciarán Ó Cofaigh/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile/?pid=5728906752001&teideal=Sínte&series=Scéal 2&dlft=3617
<i>Fíorghael</i> (2005)	Macdara Vallely	Macdara Vallely	Tamara Anghie/Zanzibar Films	https://www.irishfilmboard.ie/direct-ory/view/7732/na-fiorghae
<i>Turas Téarnaimh</i> (1954)	Gerard Healy	<i>N/bh</i>	Bord Scannán na hÉireann	Seoda (DVD (Gearrscannán dubh agus bán)

Amhráin T1 / Songs T1

Teideal / Title	Scríbhneoir / Writer
<i>An Bóthar</i>	Mark Ó Loinsigh (bunaithe ar dhán le Seán Ó Riordáin)



<i>An Drúcht Geal Ceo</i>	Séamas Ó Grianna (a d'aistrigh)
<i>Beir mo Dhúthracht</i>	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
<i>Bí Ann/Leanfaidh mé</i>	Kila
<i>Ceap do Shuaimhneas</i>	IMLÉ
<i>An Poc ar Buile</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Cúnla</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Aililiú na Gamhna</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Mise Éire</i>	Pádraig Mac Piarais (liricí) Patrick Cassidy (ceol)
<i>An Saol Rúnda</i>	Oisín Mac
<i>Deireadh na seachtaine</i>	Na Fíréin
<i>Amhrán Chuigéil</i>	John Beag Ó Flatharta
<i>A Neansaí 'mhíle grá</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Caidé sin don té sin?</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>An Seandúine dóite</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Ceol an Phóbaire</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Ag Críost an Síol</i>	Seán Ó Riada (ceol)
<i>Déan é</i>	Sruth na Maoile
<i>Deora ar mo chroí</i>	Enya
<i>An Mhaighdean Mhara</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Faoiseamh</i>	Spats Columbo



Drámaí T1 / Plays T1				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Scríbhneoir / Author / Writer	Cnuasach / Collection	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Eoghan Gabha</i>	Pádraig Mac Piarais	<i>Drámaí an Phiarsaigh</i>	Irish Academic Press	2013
<i>Coimhlint</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Aistear Intinne</i>	Coiscéim	1996
<i>Aisling Aongusa</i>	Brian Ó Baoill	<i>TUB...aiste! agus drámaí eile: Duaisdrámaí an Oireachtais</i>	www.lulu.com	2010
<i>Lá Buí Bealtaine</i>	Máiréad Ní Ghráda	<i>Gearrdhrámaí an Chéid Eag. Pádraig Ó Siadhail</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2000 2008
<i>An Casán</i>	Séamus de Bhilmot	<i>Gearrdhrámaí an Chéid Eag. Pádraig Ó Siadhail</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2000 2008

Appendix 2: Prescribed Materials for Junior Cycle Irish T2

List of prescribed texts

(This list of prescribed literary texts supersedes circular 0036/2018 and 0069/2018)

Úrscéalta T2 / Novels T2			
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Sárú</i>	Anna Heussaff	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>LabhairAmach.com</i>	Áine Uí Fhoghlú	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>Tóraíocht Taisce</i>	Mícheál Ó Ruairc	Cois Life	2012



<i>Amach</i>	Alan Titley	An Gúm	2003
<i>Smuf</i>	Alan Titley	An Gúm	2012
<i>Hóng</i>	Anna Heussaff	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2012
<i>Daideo</i>	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Cois Life	2014
<i>Cúpla</i>	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2011
<i>Éalú san Oíche</i>	Colmán Ó Raghallaigh	Cló Mhaigh Eo	2012
<i>Trumptaí Dumptaí agus An Falla Mór</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	Móinín	2017
<i>Hiúdaí Beag</i>	Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair	Cló Mhaigh Eo	2012

Gearrscéalta T2 / Short Stories T2

Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Leigheas</i>	Orna Ní Choileáin	<i>Sciarrann an tAm</i>	Cois Life	2014
<i>Quick Pick</i>	Orna Ní Choileáin	<i>Sciarrann an tAm</i>	Cois Life	2014
<i>Katfish</i>	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	<i>Katfish agus Scéalta eile</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>An Cluiche Mór</i>	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	<i>Katfish agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
<i>Punk</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Punk agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Mhaigh Eo	1998 2004



<i>Na Bradmharcaigh</i>	Ré Ó Laighléis	<i>Punk agus Scéalta Eile</i>	Cló Mhaigh Eo	1998 2004
<i>Spás</i>	Mícheál Ó Ruairc	<i>Na Lucha ag Rince</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2009
<i>M'Asal Beag Dubh</i>	Pádraic Ó Conaire	<i>Pádraic Ó Conaire: Rogha Scéalta</i> (eag. Diarmuid de Faoite)	Cló Iar-Chonnacht (ríomhleabhar)	2008
<i>Fionn agus an Fathach</i>	Jacqueline de Brún	N/bh	An tÁisaonad	2012
<i>Deirdre an Bhróin</i>	Máirtín Mac Grianna	N/bh	An tÁisaonad	2012



Filíocht T2 / Poetry T2

Teideal / Title	File / Poet	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
<i>Stadeolaíocht</i>	Marcus Mac Conghail	<i>Ceol Baile</i>	Cois Life	2014
<i>Jeaic ar Scoil</i>	Dairena Ní Chinnéide	<i>Máthair an Fhiaigh</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2008
<i>An Ghealach</i>	Caitríona Ní Chléirchín	<i>Crithloinnir</i>	Coiscéim	2010
<i>Sámhchodladh</i>	Colm Breathnach	<i>An Fear Marbh</i>	Coiscéim	1998
<i>Slán</i>	Áine Ní Ghlinn	<i>Gairdín Pharthais agus dánta eile</i>	Coiscéim	1988
<i>Ceist na Teangan</i>	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	<i>Pharaoh's Daughter</i>	Gallery Press	1990
<i>Rún</i>	Caitlín Maude	<i>Caitlín Maude: Dánta, Drámaíocht agus Prós</i>	Coiscéim	2005
<i>Aongus</i>	Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc	<i>Buille Faoi Thuairim Gabha</i>	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
<i>An Grá</i>	Colm Breathnach	<i>Croí agus Carraig</i>	Coiscéim	1995
<i>Deochadh Dorais</i>	Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh	<i>The Coast Road</i>	Gallery Press	2016
<i>Maith Dhom</i>	Máirtín Ó Direáin	<i>Máirtín Ó Direáin: Na Dánta</i>	An Clóchomhar Tta (Cló Iar-Chonnacht)	2010
<i>Breith Dáin</i>	Máirtín Ó Direáin	<i>Máirtín Ó Direáin: Na Dánta</i>	An Clóchomhar Tta (Cló Iar-Chonnacht)	2010
<i>Dán do Lara 10</i>	Michael Hartnett	<i>A Necklace of Wrens</i>	Gallery Press	1987
<i>Deireadh Cóisire</i>	Gearóid Mac Lochlainn	<i>Na Scéalaithe</i>	Coiscéim	1999



<i>Ceithre Ráithe na Bliana</i>	Pádraig Mac Suibhne	<i>Solas Uaigneach</i>	An Sagart	1992
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Gearrscannáin T2 / Short Films T2				
Teideal / Title	Stiúrthóir / Director	Scríbhneoir / Writer	Léiritheoirí / Comhlacht / Producers / Production Company	Ar fáil ag / Available at
<i>An Teanga Rúnda (2005)</i>	Brian Durnin	Brian Durnin	Macdaragh Kelleher, Fastnet Films	tg4.ie/foghlaim
<i>An tÁdh (2014)</i>	Colm Baireád	Medb Johnstone	Deirdre Ní Fhlaithearta, ROSG	tg4.ie/foghlaim
<i>Cúilín Dualach (2004)</i>	Nora Twomey	Jackie Mac Donncha	Ross Murray, Cartoon Saloon agus Seán Ó Cualáin, Sónta Teo.	tg4.ie/foghlaim www.thisisirishfilm.ie
<i>El Toro</i>	Tomás Seoighe	Tomás Seoighe	David Clarke	El Zorrero Films
<i>Fluent Dysphasia (2004)</i>	Daniel O'Hara	Daniel O'Hara	Gráinne O'Carroll/ Dough Productions	https://www.irishfilmboard.ie/direct-ory/view/7942/fluent-dysphasia

Amhráin T2 / Songs T2	
Teideal / Title	Scríbhneoir / Writer
<i>Bí Ann/Leanfaidh mé</i>	Kila
<i>Fún orm</i>	IMLÉ



<i>An Poc ar Buile</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Cúnla</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Aililiú na Gamhna</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Mise Éire</i>	Pádraig Mac Piarais (liricí) Patrick Cassidy (ceol)
<i>An Saol Rúnda</i>	Oisín Mac
<i>Deireadh na seachtaine</i>	Na Fíréin
<i>Amhrán an Ghaeilgeora Mhóir</i>	Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin
<i>A Neansaí 'mhíle grá</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>An Mhaighdean Mhara</i>	Traidisiúnta
<i>Ag Críost an Síol</i>	Seán Ó Riada (ceol)
<i>Níl mé Marbh</i>	Róisín Seoige
<i>Solas</i>	Seo Linn
<i>Déan é</i>	Sruth na Maoile
<i>Siar go Conamara</i>	Aerach